

Message Text

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INFO MAAG BELGIUM

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MAAG NETHERLANDS

MAAG NORWAY

MAAG TURKEY

ONR LONDON

CNO WASHDC

CHNAVMAT WASHDC

COMNAVSEASYS COM WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: NATO INFORMATION EXCHANGE GROUP 1/NATO INDUSTRIAL

ADVISORY GROUP SUB-GROUP 8 (IEG/1-NIAG(SG-8) JOINT

MEETING 15-17 JULY 1975

BEGIN SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE REPORTS SUBJECT MEETING DURING
WHICH MEMBERS REVIEWED THE NIAG(SG/8) PREFEASIBILITY STUDY
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ON A SECOND GENERATION ANTI SHIP MISSILE. NIAG(SG/8) CONCLUDED
THAT OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES SET FORTH BY IEG/1 COULD BE MET. US
WAS ISOLATED IN A BID TO EXPAND THE NATO STAFF OBJECTIVE (
OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENT OR OBJECTIVE) FOR THE FOLLOW ON

FEASIBILITY STUDY. US REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE SEEKING CLEARLY DEFINED US POSITION ON NATO STAFF OBJECTIVE AND EFFECT OF THIS POSITION ON US PARTICIPATION IN FEASIBILITY STUDY SHOULD OTHER MEMBERS NOT AGREE TO BROADENING THE NATO STAFF OBJECTIVE. WE THINK THIS PROJECT MAY BE TEST CASE FOR STANDARDIZATION. END SUMMARY.

1. MEMBERS OF IEG/1 AND NIAG(SG-8) MET JOINTLY 15-17 JULY AT NATO HEADQUARTERS TO REVIEW THE NIAG(SG-8) PREFEASIBILITY STUDY ON A NATO SECOND GENERATION ANTI SHIP MISSILE AND TO REVIEW TERMS OF REFERENCE UNDER WHICH A NATO PROJECT GROUP WILL CONDUCT A FOLLOWON FEASIBILITY STUDY. THE PRINCIPAL MEMBER OF THE US DELEGATION WAS COMMANDER WAYNE SMITH (OPNAV).

2. THE NIAG (SG-8) CONCLUDED THAT THE "OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE FOR A SECOND GENERATION ANIT SHIP MISSILE CAN BE MET IN ALL ITS LEADING PARTICULARS."

3. DRAWING ON WASHINGTON GUIDANCE, THE US MEMBER TABLED A US PROPOSAL THAT THE NATO STAFF OBJECTIVE BASIC TO THE FOLLOW ON FEASIBILITY STUDY SHOULD BE BROADENED TO ENSURE THOROUGH CONSIDERATION OF MISSILE SPEED AND RANGE REGIMES APPROPRIATE FOR A TRULY SECOND GENERATION MISSILE. THE US POSITION IS THAT THE CURRENT SPEED AND RANGE REGIMES WILL RESTRICT THE FEASIBILITY STUDY AND TO A DEGREE PREDETERMINE ITS RESULTS. THE US, ISOLATED IN THIS POSITION, ADVISED THE MEMBERS THAT THE US MUST SEEK FURTHER GUIDANCE ABOUT THE US POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE NATO STAFF OBJECTIVE AND US PARTICIPATION IN THE FEASIBILITY STUDY.

4. THE US TABLED A PROPOSED DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE FEASIBILITY STUDY WHICH THE OTHER NATIONS ACCEPTED, SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY NATIONAL AUTHORITIES, AFTER US AGREED TO MINOR CHANGES.

5. COMMENT: A. IT APPEARS THAT NATIONS OTHER THAN THE US ARE SATISFIED WITH THE MISSILE WHICH SEEMS TO BE EMERGING FROM IEG/1-NIAG(SG-8) EFFORTS AT THIS EARLY DATE. WE UNDERSTAND, CONFIDENTIAL

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HOWEVER, THAT THE US FEELS THAT THE OUTPUT THUS FAR, WHILE COMMENDABLE, IS BECOMING TOO RESTRICTED TOO EARLY AND THAT THE EXPRESSED CNAD/ NNAG GOAL OF A TRUE SECOND GENERATION MISSILE WILL NOT BE MET. IT APPEARS ALSO THAT NATIONAL INTERESTS ARE RISING TO MOTIVATE THE MAJOR NATIONS (UK, FRANCE AND FRG) IN THEIR SUPPORT OF THE MISSILE WE SEE EMERGING. THESE NATIONS HAVE EQUIPMENTS, SUB-SYSTEMS OR EXPERTISE TO MEET THE CURRENT NATO STAFF OBJECTIVE, BUT IT IS OPEN TO CONJECTURE WHETHER THEY COULD COMPETE SUCCESSFULLY IN AN EFFORT TO PRODUCE THE DESIRED SECOND GENERATION MISSILE WHICH THE US SUPPORTS.

B. IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF IEG/1 IN SEPT 1975,

WE FEEL IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE US DEVELOP A CLEAR POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE CURRENT NATO STAFF OBJECTIVE. IF THE STAFF OBJECTIVE STANDS, THE US SHOULD DECIDE IF IT IS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FEASIBILITY STUDY.

C. WE SEE THE IEG/1-NIAG(SG-8) EFFORT TO DATE AS COMMENDABLE, BUT CONCUR IN US POSITION THAT RESTRICTIVE STAFF OBJECTIVES ARE TENDING UNWISELY TO RESTRICT THE SCOPE OF THE STUDY AT THIS EARLY STAGE. WE SUPPORT THE IMPLIED CNAD/NNAG GOAL OF A SECOND GENERATION MISSILE, NOT AN IMPROVED FIRST GENERATION MISSILE. THIS PROGRAM MAY WELL TEST WHETHER THE NATIONS ARE READY, WILLING AND ABLE TO STANDARDIZE ON A MAJOR WEAPON, AND WE BELIEVE THAT THE US SHOULD TAKE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT THE MOMENTUM GENERATED TO DATE IS NOT LOST. WE SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT THESE MEASURES, WHATEVER THEY MAY BE, SHOULD NOT BE INITIATED AT THE TECHNICALLY ORIENTED IEG/1-NIAG(SG-8) LEVEL. RATHER, WE SUGGEST WASHINGTON MAKE EARLY APPROPRIATE HIGH-LEVEL CONTACT WITH MEMBER NATIONS TO ENSURE THAT THEY CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THE US POSITION ON THE STAFF OBJECTIVE AND THE FEASIBILITY STUDY BEFORE THE SEPT 1975 MEETING OF IEG/1. WE BELIEVE THIS EARLY AND HIGH LEVEL CONTACT WOULD PRECLUDE MUCH OF THE CUSTOMARY CNAD/NNAG FENCING AND PARRYING. NATIONS COULD BE PREPARED FOR SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH FULL NATIONAL GUIDANCE, AND WE COULD EITHER GET ON WITH THE PROGRAM OR DECIDE STRAIGHTFORWARDLY THAT THE US WILL NOT PARTICIPATE. BRUCE

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